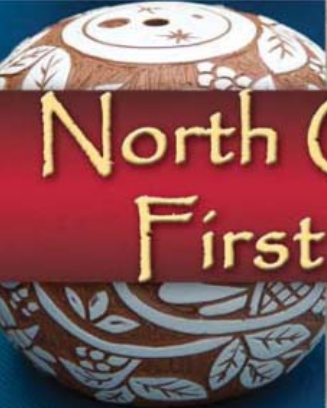


North Carolina's First People



North Carolina
Commission of Indian Affairs



**The North Carolina
Commission of Indian Affairs
invites you to explore the lives
of the people who first settled
here 12,000 years ago!**

Since 1971, the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs has been an advocacy agency for American Indian citizens in our state. Our mission is to instill a positive vision for American Indians through preserving cultural identity by promoting and advocating the rights, beliefs and opportunities which impact quality of life.

North Carolina Tribes of Yesteryear

Archaeological evidence indicates that Indians were living in the area known as North Carolina at least 12,000 years ago. Indians of what is now the Virginia and North Carolina coast were hosts to the first English-speaking explorers and settlers.

Overall, Indians of North Carolina numbered in the tens of thousands, including more than 30 tribes geographically separated by three linguistic families. Along the northeastern and central coast were the Algonquians. On the northern and southern coastal plain and throughout the Piedmont resided communities of Siouan lineage. Two distinct groups of Iroquoian-speaking peoples lived along the central coastal plain and in the mountains of western North Carolina.

Tribes that lived in the area included: the Chowanoke, Croatoan, Hatteras, Moratoc, Secotan, Weapemeoc, Machapunga, Pamlico, Coree, Neusiok, Tuscarora, Meherrin, Cherokee, Cape Fear, Catawba, Shakori, Sissipahaw, Sugeree, Waccamaw, Waxhaw, Woccon, Cheraw, Eno, Keyauwee, Occaneechi, Saponi and Tutelo.

Platarasch



North Carolina Tribes Today

By the mid-1800s, European settlements had spread across the Central Piedmont. Small tribes fled before the invasion and most joined kinsmen in eastern and southern North Carolina, southern Virginia or South Carolina. It is from these last surviving groups that the present-day, state-recognized tribes of North Carolina – the Coharie, the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians, Haliwa-Saponi, Lumbee, Meherrin, Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, Sappony and Waccamaw Siouan – trace their ancestry.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, North Carolina's American Indian population totals more than 123,000, giving the state the largest American Indian population east of the Mississippi River and the sixth largest in the nation.

American Indians live in each of the state's 100 counties. Approximately 80 percent of the American Indian population resides in 11 counties – Columbus, Cumberland, Guilford, Halifax, Hoke, Jackson, Mecklenburg, Robeson, Scotland, Swain and Wake. Approximately 47 percent of the American Indian population in North Carolina lives in Robeson County, accounting for 38 percent of that county's total population.

The Coharie



Headquartered in Clinton, the Coharie Indian Tribe descends from the aboriginal Neusiok Indian Tribe on the Coharie River in Harnett and Sampson counties. The community consists of four settlements: Holly Grove, New Bethel, Shiloh and Antioch. The Coharie have approximately 3,000 members with about 20 percent residing outside the tribal communities. Early records indicate the tribe sought refuge from hostilities from both English colonists and Native peoples, moving to this area between 1729 and 1746 from the northern and northeastern part of the state.

CONTACT

The Coharie Intra-Tribal Council
7531 N. U.S. Hwy 421
Clinton, N.C. 28328
910-564-6909
coharietribe.org/



Coharie elder demonstrates quilt making to a youth

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians



The Cherokee people believe the creator brought them to their home in the mountains of what is today western North Carolina. Their first village site is the Kituwah Mound in what is today Swain County.

In the 19th century, the North Carolina Cherokees worked against the forced removal of over 16 thousand Cherokees to present-day Oklahoma on what is known as the Trail of Tears. A group that remained, along with other Cherokees who escaped removal or returned to original Cherokee territory, established the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

Their home today is the Qualla Boundary, located on 56 thousand acres adjacent to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and at the southern entrance to the Blue Ridge Scenic Parkway. There are more than 15 thousand enrolled members with approximately 60 percent living on or near the boundary. The Qualla Boundary includes the town of Cherokee and other communities with lands in several western North Carolina counties. Cherokee is home to Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort, one of western North Carolina's largest employers.

CONTACT

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
P.O. Box 455
Cherokee, N.C. 28719
828-497-7000
<http://ebci.com>



Cherokee potter, Joel Queen, works in his studio

Haliwa-Saponi



The Haliwa-Saponi tribal members are direct descendants of the Saponi, Tuscarora, Tutelo and Nansemond Indians. At 4,200 members, the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe is the third-largest tribe in the state. The tribe resides primarily in the area traditionally known by the elders as "The Meadows," which encompasses most of the southwestern part of rural Halifax County and the southeastern part of rural Warren County. Tribal members also reside in the adjoining counties of Nash and Franklin. The Haliwa-Saponi Powwow is the oldest continuous powwow in the state, typically held in April.

CONTACT

Haliwa - Saponi Indian Tribe
39021 Hwy. 561
Hollister, N.C. 27844
252-586-4017
<http://haliwa-saponi.com/>

"The Gift," a mosaic by Haliwa - Saponi artist Senora Lynch, is located at UNC-Chapel Hill in the courtyard between the old and new Student Union buildings.

Haliwa-Saponi Grass Dancer

Lumbee Warriors Association Seal

Lumbee

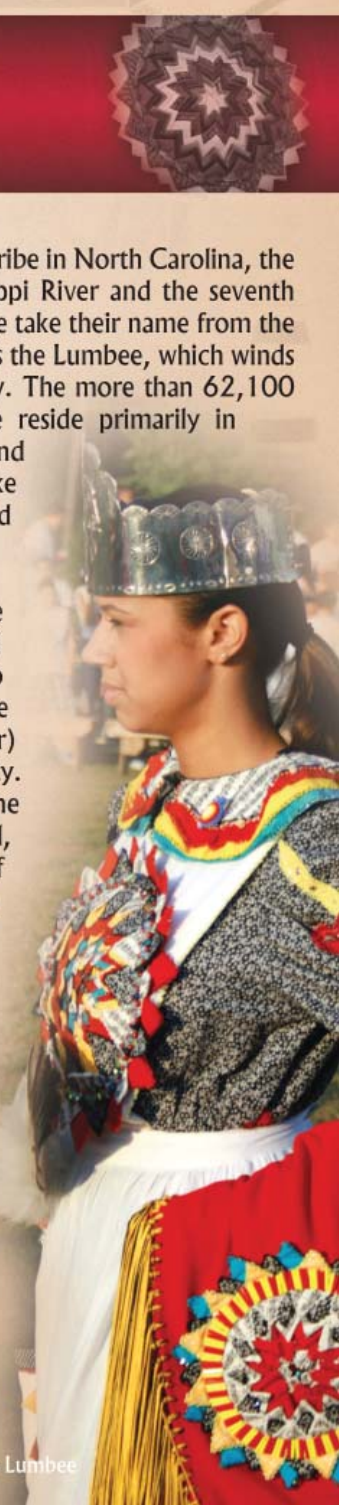
The Lumbee Tribe is the largest tribe in North Carolina, the largest tribe east of the Mississippi River and the seventh largest in the nation. The Lumbee take their name from the Lumber River originally known as the Lumbee, which winds its way through Robeson County. The more than 62,100 members of the Lumbee Tribe reside primarily in Robeson, Hoke, Cumberland and Scotland counties. Pembroke is the economic, cultural and political center of the tribe.

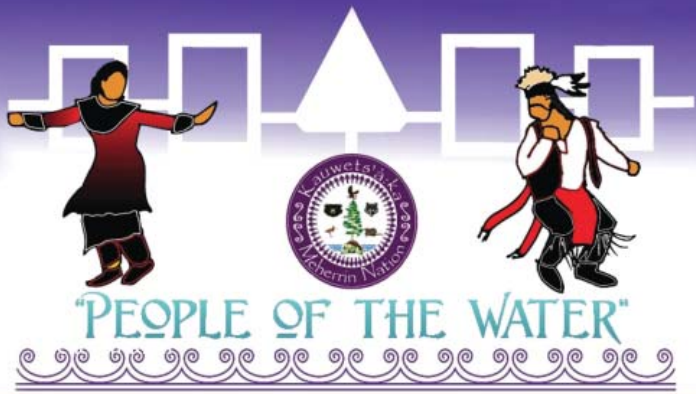
The ancestors of the Lumbee were mainly Cheraw and related Siouan-speaking Indians who were first observed in 1724 on the Drowning Creek (Lumbee River) in present-day Robeson County. In 1887, the state established the Croatan Indian Normal School, known today as the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. A variety of enterprises including an industrial park, farming, small businesses and the University contribute to the economy.

CONTACT

Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina
P.O. Box 2709
Pembroke, N.C. 23872
910-521-7861
<http://www.lumbee Tribe.com>

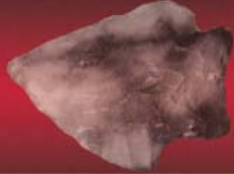
A Pinecone dress worn by former Miss Lumbee





PEOPLE OF THE WATER

Meherrin



Meherrin refer to themselves as Kauwets'a:ka, "People of the Water." They share language, traditions and culture with the Tuscarora, Nottoway, Cherokee and other Haudenosaunee Nations. In 1677, all Nations in Virginia signed the Middle Plantation Treaty. However, Meherrin Chief Ununtequero and Next Chief Horehannah were the last two to sign the Treaty in 1680. Shortly thereafter, the Meherrin Nation left their ancient villages of Cowinchahawkron and Unote and eventually moved into present day Murfreesboro, N.C. The last known village, "Old Town Maharinneck," was on "Meherrin Creek" known today as Potecasi Creek, is within walking distance of the present day Meherrin Tribal grounds where the annual pow-wows are held. The Meherrin are the only non-reservation Indians in N.C. who still live on their original Reservation lands.

CONTACT

Meherrin Indian Tribe Inc.
P.O. Box 274
Ahoskie, N.C. 27910
252-904-1517

<http://www.meherrintribe.com>

Meherrin woman giving thanks to The Creator.

The Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation

The Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation is located in Alamance, Caswell and Orange counties, in the old "Texas" Community. Its 1,800 enrolled members are active in their community and in statewide Indian events. The Occaneechi descend from several small Siouan speaking tribes who were living in the Piedmont of North Carolina and Virginia when the first European explorers arrived in the 1600s.

CONTACT

Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation
P.O. Box 356
Mebane, N.C. 27302
336-421-1317
www.obsn.org



Occaneechi Elder

Sappony



HIGH PLAINS SCHOOL

Established in 1888 for the Indians of Person County. First one room school was built on Green Martin's land 1 mile east. The second and third schools were built on land donated by Ditrion W. & Mary M. Epps in 1905. The school was unique in that it was financed by North Carolina and Virginia. In 1962, the school was closed and the student body transferred to Bethel Hill and Allensville Schools.

Historical Marker for the High Plains school for Indians founded 1888

The Sappony have made the Piedmont Highlands their home for countless generations. The tribe's 850 enrolled members are comprised of seven core families, or clans, whose homelands are along the border of North Carolina and Virginia known as the High Plains.

In the early 1700s, when the Sappony children were attending school at Fort Christanna and the tribe was guarding the frontier for the colonies, they also were helping to mark the North Carolina-Virginia border. As a result, part of High Plains is located in Person County, N.C., and part is located in Halifax County, Va. The tribe is actively pursuing initiatives in the areas of economic development, education and cultural preservation.

CONTACT

Sappony Tribal Center
4218 Virgilina Road
Virgilina, Va. 24598
434-585-3352
www.sappony.org



Lake Waccamaw

Waccamaw Siouan



The Waccamaw, historically known as the Waccamassus, were formerly located 100 miles northeast of Charleston, S.C. After the Waccamaw and South Carolina War in 1749, the Waccamaw sought refuge in the swamplands of North Carolina. The present day Waccamaw Siouan Tribe is located in Columbus and Bladen counties. The tribal membership is comprised of approximately 1,700 enrolled members, a majority of whom live in the Buckhead and St. James communities situated on the edge of the Green Swamp about 37 miles west of Wilmington, seven miles east of Lake Waccamaw and four miles north of Bolton.

CONTACT

Waccamaw Siouan Tribe
P.O. Box 69
Bolton, N.C. 28423
910-655-8778
www.waccamaw-siouan.com



The Sappony Annual Fall Heritage Celebration



Waccamaw Siouan woman in buckskin regalia



Attractions

American Indian Center, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

- The Center is a campus-wide facility that advances the University's overall mission of research, teaching and public service by creating an environment where quality research, scholarship and engagement related to American Indians is strengthened, nurtured and coordinated.

<http://americanindiancenter.unc.edu>
919-843-4189

Guilford Native American Art Gallery, Greensboro

- Established in 1990, the Guilford Native American Art Gallery is a fine art gallery dedicated to promoting, exhibiting and selling traditional and contemporary Native American art.

336-509-6707

The Museum of the Southeast American Indian, Pembroke

- The Museum is located in the Old Main Building on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. The mission of the Museum of the Southeast American Indian is to educate the public about the prehistory, history, culture, art and contemporary issues of American Indians, with special emphasis on the Native American communities of Robeson County, of North Carolina and of the American Southeast.

<http://www.uncp.edu/nativemuseum>
910-521-6282



Town Creek Indian Mound, Mt. Giliead

- This National Historic Landmark site preserves a ceremonial mound built by the Pee Dee, a group of Mississippian mound builders that lived in the Pee Dee region of North and South Carolina during the Pre-Columbian era (about 1100 AD–1400 A.D.).

<http://www.nchistoricsites.org/town>
910-439-6802

“The Lost Colony,” Manteo

- America's longest running outdoor drama is performed each summer on Roanoke Island on North Carolina's Outer Banks. Since its debut in 1937, “The Lost Colony” has served as the training ground for thousands of actors and technicians, including actor Andy Griffith, director Terrance Mann and costume designer William Ivey Long.

<http://www.thelostcolony.org>
252-473-3414

The Museum of the Cherokee Indian, Cherokee

- The Museum provides an educational and interactive experience where concise, chronological stories retrace the 11,000-year documented history of the Cherokees and their life in the mountains of Western North Carolina.

<http://www.cherokeemuseum.org>
828-497-3481

Nikwasi Indian Mound, Franklin, North Carolina

- What is now Downtown Franklin North Carolina used to be a thriving Cherokee Village called “Nikwasi.” A sacred mound still remains having avoided excavation attempts and destruction from farming and modern construction. This enormous mound was once crowned with a large townhouse built by the Cherokee people which was known to hold the “ever-burning sacred fire,” and was the dwelling place of the immortal spirit-beings – the “nunnehi.” Taking pictures and observing from the bottom of the mound is permitted. However, we, and the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians, ask for your help in preserving this 1,000-year-old historic site by not walking or climbing on the mound.

Directions: Located in the Town of Franklin, N.C.. Take U.S. Hwy-441 “Business” to Franklin, then to E. Palmer Street/E. Main Street.

Occaneechi Indian Village, Burlington

- This reconstructed Siouan village is similar to what the early Piedmont settlers would have seen in the late 1600s. The village represents a period of time when the Native culture of the area was beginning to change and evolve under the influence of new trade goods from Europe.

www.obsn.org
336-421-1317

Oconaluftee Indian Village, Cherokee

- This replica of an 18th century Cherokee community is staffed by Cherokee guides, who explain the history, culture and lifestyle of their ancestors. Watch Cherokee craftsmen demonstrate their skill in making arrowheads, baskets, blowguns, beaded belts, ceremonial masks, dugout canoes, pottery and wood carvings.

www.visitchekeenc.com
828-497-2111

Qualla Arts & Crafts Mutual Inc., Cherokee

- Founded in 1946 with the purpose of preserving and advancing Cherokee arts and crafts, the Qualla Arts & Crafts Mutual Inc. is the oldest and leading Native American Arts Cooperative in the United States.

www.quallaartsandcrafts.com
828-497-3103

Roanoke Island Festival Park, Manteo

- The on-site art gallery, fossil pit, museum store and marsh-side boardwalks are free and open to the public. The site offers a wide variety of activities, including building a dug-out canoe, working a fish trap and planting and harvesting crops.

<http://www.roanokeisland.com>
252-475-1500

“Unto These Hills,” Cherokee

- Since its debut on July 1, 1950, “Unto These Hills” has entertained over six million people, telling the Cherokee’s rich story from 1780 to the 21st century. For the first time in over a decade, the original production (updated for cultural sensitivity and extra stage drama) is back. The original Kermit Hunter version of “Unto These Hills” is being performed live again at the Mountainside Theatre.

www.visitchekeenc.com
828-554-4557



North Carolina Tribes and Organizations holding membership on the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs (N.C.G.S. § 143B-407) and the counties in which they are primarily located:



State and Federally Recognized Tribes

- Coharie (*Harnett and Sampson*)
- * Eastern Band Of Cherokee Indians (*Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon and Swain*)
- Haliwa-Saponi (*Halifax and Warren*)
- Lumbee (*Hoke, Robeson and Scotland*)
- Meherrin (*Hertford*)
- Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation (*Alamance, Caswell and Orange*)
- Sappony (*Person*)
- Waccamaw Siouan (*Bladen and Columbus*)
- * Federally Recognized

Urban Indian Organizations

(Holding membership on the NC Commission of Indian Affairs):
Cumberland County Association for Indian People
Guilford Native American Association
Metrolina Native American Association
Triangle Native American Society



Grand Entry procession during the Annual American Indian Heritage Month Celebration, downtown Raleigh.

Cover Art Credits:

Seed Pot by Senora Lynch (Haliwa-Saponi) • Miss North Carolina 2007
Jessica Jacobs (Lumbee) • Red Medallion - Kara Stewart (Sappony)
Aaron Winston, powwow dancer

Photographer Credits:

The Miss America Pageant • Pamela Graham DeRensis (Lumbee)
Renee Jane Jacobs (Waccamaw Siouan) • James V. Locklear (Lumbee)
Kelly Queen • Consuela Richardson (Haliwa-Saponi)
Mark Durlak • Sue Vaughan • Shelia Wilson (Sappony) • Lumbee Tribe
N.C. Museum of History • Jayce Williams

Featured Artists:

Senora Lynch (Haliwa-Saponi) • James Malcolm (Lumbee) • Joel Queen
(Eastern Band of the Cherokee) • Kara Stewart (Sappony) • Peter Wolf Toth



North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs

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Executive Director

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The North Carolina Commission Of Indian Affairs is a Division of
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